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Southern Convention of Congregational Christian Churches.

1865

Delegates to convention

1961

40th

N.C. - Va

Christian Conference
40th Annual Session
Oak Level, Franklin Co, NC
Oct 4-7, 1865

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTIETH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

NORTH CAROLINA & VIRGINIA

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE,

HELD AT

OAK LEVEL, FRANKLIN CO., N. C.

October 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th, 1865.

Also, the Proceedings of the

HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Meeting of the North Carolina and Virginia Christian Conference.

Oak Level, Franklin County, N. C., October, 4th, 1865.

Conference met pursuent to adjournment, and was called to order by Elder T. J. Fowler, Vice President of last Session. Singing and prayer by Elder Sol. Apple. After which the following officers were unanimously elected, viz.; Elder Sol. Apple, President; Elder T. J. Fowler, Vice President; Elder W. S. Long and Major S. A. Martin, Assistant Secretaries.

The roll of Conference being read, the following answered to their names, viz.

Elders, J. W. Wellons, T. J. Fowler, J. N. Farrell, W. S. Long, S. Apple, J. N. Manning, R. G. Tinnen, C. A. Boone, B. N. Hopkins, A. Apple, Chastien Allen, P. W. Allen, H. B. Hayse and J. I. Hobby. (*Not half* present that are members of Conference.)

Licentiates. W. K. Martin and W. H. Franks, (*Two thirds* are absent.)

Delegates. D. A. Long, W. S. Petty, M. J. W. McCauley, W. G. Lassiter, J. A. Thomas, H. L. Burnes, C. S. Holloman, Alfred Moring, H. C. Farrell, J. A. Farrell, F. J. Smith, J J. Jenkins, H. A. Albright, W. W. Johnston, T. W. Austin W. J. Long, C. E. Ayscue , Elijah Grissom, J. C. Williams, M. C. Winston, Thos. A. Martin, Thos. Winston, J. H. Compton, J. F. Coghill, Isreal Dillard, J. H. Fleming, A. Newman and David Bragg.

The President then annecunced that Conference was ready for business. All communications to Conference, were then read.

On motion of W. K. Martin, the Chair appointed a committee of three on religious exercise. Committees, J. W. Wellons, W. K. Martin, and M. C. Winston.

On motion of J. N. Manning, the Rev. Jas. L. Fisher, of the M. E. Church was invited to take a seat in that part of the house occupied by Conference, and to take part in our deliberations.

The Executive Committee of Conference then reported, which Report was received and adopted.

On motion adjourned to 2 o'clock, P.M.

2 o'clock, P. M.

Conference convened according to appointment.

On of Motion of J. N. Manning, Dr. E. F. Watson of Alemance County was invited to a seat in Conference as a honorary member thereof.

The Chair then announced the following Committee, viz.

On character and standing of the Ministry; M. C. Winston, A. Moring, D. A. Long, H. A. Albright and W. S. Petty.

On Memoirs; J. N. Manning, W. S. Long, and W. K. Martin.

On Finance; W. S. Petty, C. A. Boone, and M. J. W. McCanley.

On Statistics; R. G. Tinnen, D. A. Long, S. Holloman.

On Sabbath Schools; J. W. Wellons, J. J. Jenkins, F. J. Smith.

On Ministerial Supply; T. J. Fowler, J. N. Manning J. H. Fleming, A. Moring D. A. Long, W. H. Albright, C. A. Boone.

A Petition was received from the Churches in the Deep River Valley, praying permission to organize a seperate Conference in said Valley, which, on motion of W. S. Long, was made the special order of 11 o'clock to-morrow monring.

On motion of W. K. Martin, the thanks of Conference were tendered Elder C. A. Apple, for the suggestions made in his letter to Conference.

Conference adjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. Singing and prayer by Elder J. N. Farrell.

October 5th, 10 o'clock, A. M.

Conference convened pursuant to adjournment, singing and prayer by Elder T. J. Fowler.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

A Petition from the Church at Smyrna, requesting to become a member of Conference was read, which, on motion of W. K. Martin, was unanimously granted.

On motion, Elder T. J. Fowler, the special order of the day, the Petition from the Churches in the Deep River Valley, was taken up and considered.

Elder J. N. Manning offered the following, which after considerable debate was adopted,

Resolved, that the Petition of the Churches in the Deep River Valley be duly considered and continued under contemplation until our next Conference, and that the Ministers and Churches mentioned in the Petition be requested to continue their followship with the body until a better understanding of the matter can be had.

Resolved, that the Chair appoint a suitable person to write a letter of explanation to the Ministers and Churches of Deep River Valley, in reference to their Petition for permission to organize a new Conference.

Conference adjourned to 3 o'clock, P. M.

3 o'clock, p. m.

Conference convened.

The President appointed a Committee to select a suitable place for the next annual meeting of Conference.

Committee on Sabbath Schools reported, which was received and adopted.

Report.

That so low an estimate, as in apparent throughout our Conference, should be formed of the value of Sabbath schools is a matter of deep regret, we recommend that more attention be given to this subject, and that energetic efforts be made by the Ministers and laity to organize Sabbath Schools, at all our Churches. It should be considered a dereliction of duty for any Minister to neglect to urge upon his congregations strict attention to this subject.

J. W. WELLONS, Chairman

The following resolution was offered by J. N. Manning, which was adopted.

Resolved. That in the opinion of this Conference, the Southern Christian Convention ought to meet as early as practicable, and that we suggest Wednesday before the 1st Sabbath in May next as a suitable time.

Resolved, further That the Secretary of this Conference be directed to communicate with all the Conferences in the Southern States and acquaint them with the desire of this body.

The Committee on character and standing of the Ministry reported, which was received and adopted.

REPORT.

We are gratified to report, after a careful examination, all the Ministers and Licentiates belonging to Conference in good and regular standing, except B. Ausley, a Licentiate, who has received ordination at the hands of W. N. Bragg, once Minister of this Conference, expelled for falsehood; and is co-operating with him; also those who are under censure and suspension, now awaiting trial, of whom you are fully advised. Respectfully submited.

M. C. WINSTON, Chairman.

The following resolutions was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That the case of B. Ausly, together, with those reported last session, he referred to a committee of all the Elders present.

Resolved, That this Conference would suggest Mount Auburn as a fit place for the next meeting of the Southern Christian Convention.

Resolved, That a Committee of three, be appointed to devise means for the publication of the *Christian Sun*, as soon as it may appear practicable; and that they be empowered to determine the place of publication, secure the services of an efficient Editor, and to fix the price of the paper, *Provided*, however, that the Southern Christian Convetion does not meet within nine months from this date, and that no notice of such meeting be published within six mnoths.

Resolved, That the contributions to the Conference fund be now received. (Vide Manuscript.)

The Chair appointed Elder J. N. Manning to write the letter to the Ministers and Churches of Deep River Valley.

Conference apjourned to 10 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Singing and prayer by Rev. J. L. Fisher, of the M. E. Church.

OCTOBER, 6TH, 1865.

Conference convened according to adjournment, singing and prayer by Elder J. N. Manning.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

On motion it was *Resolved*, That at 2 o'clock P. M. we go into the election of delegates to represent this Conference in the next meeting of the Southern Christian Convention.

Bro. W. K. Martin requested that he be allowed to return his license to Conference, as his church could license him to exercise in his own neighborhood which was all he desired. Conference granted the request.

Bro. J. N. Manning prepared the following letter to the Ministers and Churches in the Deep River Valley, and presented it to Conference.

LETTER.

To the Ministers and Churches in Deep River Valley, N. C.

Dear Brethren:

I am appointed by Conference to express to you the fraternal feeling of this body, and to acquaint you more fully with the disposition made of the Petition to form a new Conference in the Deep River Valley.

It is the desire of Conference that you should know the deep interest we feel in your prosperity and spiritual welfare, and that it is our purpose to assist you in the use of all means by which your happiness and usefulness may be increased and perpetuated. Be assured then, Dear Brethren, of our warmest affection and purest and highest regard.

The devision of our old and honored Conference is a matter of serious import, and may involve vast interests and untold consequences; therefore, it should be well considered and fully matured before coming to a conclusion. It is an old adage that "haste makes waste," and it may be doubly true in this instance. Consequently we think the matter ought to be continued under consideration until our next Conference, and in the mean time the churches and Ministers mentioned in the Petition can arrange their own local affairs in a manner best suited to their wants, and supply the various points with preaching as heretofore. And let them send a full representation to our next Conference, at which time the matter may be further considered. Conference was led to this conclusion by the proceedings of the Southern Christian Convention which require all petitions for the formation of new conferences to be drawn up and presented in due form. Your petition is anonymous; not a single signature was affixed; therefore, no one was responsible for it. Again, the convention provides that where two or more

churches with two or more Elders *not* within the bounds of conference may form themselves into a new conference by *permission* of the "parent body." You are located within the bounds of this conference and will surely respect and further consider the wishes of this body. With these brief thoughts we entreat you to delay further action at this time, and to meet us with that spirit with which we will greet you at our next conference.

We pray that the blessings of our Divine Master may rest upon you.

Done by order of Conference.
Your truest Brother in Christ,
J. N. MANNING.

A copy of the foregoing letter was, by order of conference, sent to the aforesaid ministers and churches.

On motion of Elder W. S. Long, a committee of three was appointed to report on the condition of the country.

Committee, W. J. Long, B. N. Hopkins, W. K. Martin.

On motion of Elder H. B. Hayes, the following committee was appointed on the resuscitation of the *Christian Sun*, viz, J. N. Manning, J. W. Wellons, Sol. Apple.

Conference adjourned to 2 o'clock, P. M,

2 o'clock, p. m.

Conference convened.

The election of Delegates to the next Convention being the special order for this house was held, and resulted as follows, viz:

Elders.—T. J. Fowler, J. N. Manning, J. W. Wellons, Sol. Apple, J. R. Holt, J. N. Farrell, A. G. Anderson, A. Isley, P. W; Allen, W. S. Long.

Laymen.—W. K. Martin, A. Moring C. E. Ayscue, W. H. Read, M. C. Winston, D. A. Long, J. H. Flemming, S. Holloman, R. J. Hatch, E. F. Watson.

The Committee on the location of Conference reported Okelley's Chapel, Chatham County, N. C., as a suitable place for the meeting of our next session.

The Committee on Ministerial supply, reported the following arrangement as agreed to between the preachers and the various Associations and stations, viz,

Dan Rives Associtaion, J. N. Manning, C. A. Apple.
Tar River Association, J. W. Wellons, J. M. Minnis.
New Hope, T. J. Fowler, J. N. Farrell.
Bells, R. G. Tinnen.
Haw River Association, E. W. Beale, W. S. Long.
Concord and Mount Zion, A. G. Anderson.
Reedy Fork Association B. N. Hopkins.
Lebanon, Sol. Apple.
Bethlehem, *Apple's* and *Hine's Chapel*, A. Isley.

Cape Fear, Antioch, Zion, Bethel, New Elam, Wake Chapel, Pleasant Union, to be served by J. N. Farrell, C. A. Boone, J. W. Hatch, J. K. Gibson.

Pleasant Spring, Utley's School House, Smyrna, Pleasant Hill, to be served by H. B. Hayes, W. H. Franks, A. Franks.

Jno. Goodrich will labor in the same field he did last year.

Conference adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Singing and prayer by Elder C. Allen.

OCTOBER, 7TH, 9 O'CLOCK, P. M.

Conference convened, worship conducted by Elder H. B. Hayes.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved,

The Committee on Statistics reported as follows:

CHURCHES.	Received.....	Removed.....	Died.....	Expeled	Whole No....	CHURCHES.	Received,....	Removed, ...	Died,.....	Expeled, ...	Whole No. ....
Union, N. C.,					520	Pleasant Ridge,					50
New Providence,			3	1	308	Shiloh, N. C.	21				94
Shallow Ford,					56	Shady Grove,	22				55
Damascus,	5	1	3	1	75	Christian Union,					24
New Elam,	16				61	Acorn Ridge,					12
Pleas't Grove, Va.	5	2			56	Liberty Grove,					9
Antioch,					46	Newbern,					184
More Union,					22	Brown's,					24
Zion,					122	Pleasant Spring,					60
Shallow Well,					100	Wake Chapel,		2	1		108
Okelley's Chapel,	1		7		133	Pleasant Union,	1	1			22
Hank's Chapel,	6		1		145	Christian Chapel,					115
Shiloh, Va.					10	Pleasant Hill,					100
Mount Pisgah,					30	Utley's School Ho			1		27
Reeces Chapel,					25	Midway,					60
Lebanon,					39	Mt. Auburn,	38	1			141
Pleas. Grove, N.C.					54	Liberty Hill,	2	1	1		54
Union, Va.					140	Fuller's,					48
Bethlehem,					100	Pope's Chapel,	3		5	5	159
Apple's Chapel,					48	Good Hope,	4		2	2	96
Hines' Chapel,					42	Oak Level,	1	4	3		67
Ebenezer,					54	Concord,					72
Salem Chapel,	19		3		124	Mt. Zion,	2	1	3		32
Mt. Bethel,					50	Bethel,	2	1			43
Brown's Chapel,					17	Smyrna,	16				16
Martha's Chapel,					16	Park's Stand,					12
Pleasant Hill,					95	Bethel,					51
Parks' ⋈ Roads,					50	Total Number,	164	12	35	9	4173

On motion, fraternal messengers were elected to the Eastern Va. C. Conference to convene at Holy Neck, Mansemond Co., Va., on Wednesday before the first Sabbath in November next.

J. W. Wellons, J. N. Manning, Sol. Apple were elected representatives.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference are due and hereby tendered to the Brethren and Friends about Oak Level for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained this body.

On motion, the following Brethren were appointed the Executive Conference Committee for the ensuing year, viz., S. Apple, J. N. Manning, C. A. Apple.

The following Preamble and Resolutions were unanimously adopted by Conference.

Whereas, W. N. Bragg, once a member of this body, is laboring to excite sympathy in his behalf and representing that Conference dealt with him, and mistreated him, for his political opinions. Therefore, Resolved, that, for the benefit of the public, it be made known that it was not for any political opinion but for prevarication and falsehood, that W. N. Bragg, was expelled from this Conference.

Resolved, That the above Preamble and Resolution be published it the State Sentinel and N. C. Standard.

The Committee of all the Elders present reported, which was received and adopted.

REPORT.

Your Commttee report that they have carefully investigated the cases heretofore brought to your notice, and would recommend.

1st. That B. F. Hopkins and J. I. Hobby be restored to their former position as Elders of this body.

2nd, That the case of Prof. W. H. Doherty be referred to the Executive Conference Committee, to be acted on by them as soon as practicable.

3rd. That the case of B. Ausley be refered to a special Committee composed of H. B. Hayes and J. N. Farrell, who will report their action to their Executive Committee.

T. J. FOWLER, Chairman.

On motion, W. K. Martin, A. Moring and J. W. Wellons, were appointed a committee to consider the propriety of printing for publication the Minutes of this Session of Conference.

On motion, it was unanimously Resolved that all the Ministers be requested to call on their congregations once during the ensueing year for contributions to the Conference fund.

On motion, Elder Sol. Apple was appointed to deliver the

next annual Address before Conference, and Elder W. S. Long, his alternate.

Conference adjourned to 1 o'clock, P. M.

Conference convened.

1 o'clock, P. M.

The Educational committee reported, which was received and adopted.

Report.

The Educational Committee report that one promising addition has been made to the Biblical class in the person of Brother W. B Lassiter who will receive the undivided attention of the Committee whenever his interest requires it.

Brother W. H. Franks, a Licentiate in the first class, has been recommended by, at least two Churches for ordination. His moral deportment and Christian character are unquestionable, and entitle him to a place in our highest regards. He however does not reach the literary standard laid down by this Conference. We therefore lay his case before you without any recommendation from us.

J. N. MANNING, Chairman.

By a vote of Conference W. H. Franks was declared worthy of ordination, and it was ordered that he be set apart to the office of an Elder to-morrow morning 10 o'clock.

On motion of Elder B. N. Hopkins, the following Brethren were appointed an ordaining Presbytery, viz.: Sol. Apple, J. N. Manning, H. B. Hayes.

The Committee on the publication of the Minutes reported, which was recieved and adopted.

Report.

We recommend that four hundred copies of the Minutes be printed, and that the money in the hands of the Treasurer be appropriated, as far as it may go, to that purpose; and that the Minutes be sold to those churches which contributed nothing, and the remainder, after paying expenses, be returned to the Conference fund, and that other churches

be furnished them gratuitously in proportion to the amount they contributed.

Respectfully submited.
W. K. MARTIN, Chairman.

The following is the report of the committee on the condition of the country which was received and adopted.

REPORT.

Your committee to whom was referred the state of the country, ask leave to report.

That while we truly mourn the sad calamity which came upon our beloved country in the late struggle, in the loss of life, the destruction of property, and the wide spread ruin and desolaiton, which is seen and felt throughout the land: Yet in all this we deem it our duty as Christians to bow submissively to the will of God, and believe that "He doeth all things well" And now that we have peace restored to our destracted country, therefore be it.

Resolved, That, we as an Ecclestiastical body pledge a faithfol obedience to, and cordial compliance with the Federal Government, and that we will strive to promote peace and harmony in our beloved country.

Respectfully submited,
B. N. HOPKINS, Chairman.

The report of the committee on Memoirs was unanimously adopted. It is as follows:

REPORT.

The committee on Memoirs report, that it becomes their painful duty to record the death of our highly esteemed and dearly beloved Brother, Elder G. G. Walker, who closed an active and useful life of labor among us, and entered upon his reward in Heaven during the past Conference year. Few men of this Conference were more untiring in their efforts to promote the interests of the Christian Church than Brother Walker; possessing a warm and generous heart, he imparted a sacred impulse to every thing he touched. No one knew him but to love him, cheerful, free and open hearted, he made all happy that approached him.

Elder Walker united to the Conference about the year 1839; and immediately entered into the work of the Ministry with industry and perseverance. His success was highly gratifying. Large numbers of spiritual children in many directions revere his memory and rise up to call him blessed. He was a warm advocate of every measure by which the interests of the Church was advanced. Our Educational enterprizes claimed much of his attention, and received his hearty support.

In his domestic relation, he was decidedly happy. He governed his own household in the most pleasant manner. A kind and watchful parent, an attentive and devoted husband, he multiplied all the comforts and joys of home over and over again. He will be missed. His presence will no more cheer the family circle, nor animate the Conference room; but he is not dead, he is yet living in the hearts of his brethren. May the Lord bless the bereaved family, and fill the place of the departed, with His own presence.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. N. MANNING.

Upon the adoption of the above report a great number of the ministers spoke of the social and christian relations that existed between them and Bro. Walker, and many tears were shed in rememberance of the pleasures they would share no more on earth.

On motion of W. K. Martin, a copy of the report was ordered to be sent to the bereaved family with the assurance of our warmest sympathies.

On motion it was resolved that our thanks are due and are hereby tendered to the Officers of Conference, for the faithful and able manner in which they have discharged their duties.

On motion of J. N. Manning, Conference adjourned to meet with the Church at Okelley's Chapel, Chatham County, N. C., on Wednesday before the 2nd Sabbath in October 1866, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Owing to the difficulties encountered in traveling, and the want of communication between the different sections of the country, and also the great scarcity of money, Conference

was very thinly attended; but the Session was very harmonious and pleasant and the usual amount of business was transacted. The Brethren appeared to be alive to the Denominational wants, and manifested a determination to push forward our Ecclesiastical enterprises as soon as practicable.

SOL. APPLE, *President.*
T. J. FOWLER, *Vice President.*

J. N. MANNING, *Secretary.*
W. S. LONG, S. A. MARTIN, *Assistant Secretaries.*

APPENDIX.

Home Missionary Society.

The Home Missionary Society connected with the C. N. & Va. C. Conference met Oct., 7th, 1865.

On motion of J. W. Wellens, the present Officers were re-elected, viz., Sol. Apple, President; J. N. Manning, Vice President; W. S. Long, Treasurer, and E. W. Beale, Secretary.

On motion, it was Resolved, That the Treasurer be requested to bring the books and bonds, in his office, to the next meeting of the Society.

On motion the Ministers were requested to appeal to their congregations in behalf of the Society during the forthcoming Conference year.

On motion the Secretary was directed to furnish the Secretary of Conference with the proceedings of this meeting for publication.

On motion the Society then adjourned to meet with the next Session of the N. C. & Va. Christian Conference.

The greater portion of the funds of the Society were lost, having been collected in what proved to be a worthless currency.

No enterprise of the Denomination is more worthy of support than the Home Missionary Society, and it is hoped that a deeper interest will be manifested in this matter by the churces and friends generally, and that liberal contributions will be made to the Society.

SOL. APPLE, *President.*

H. B. HAYES, *Secretary, pro. tem.*